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ABSTRACT

The Regional Educational Laboratory Program is the U.S. Department of Education's largest research and development investment designed to help educators, policymakers, and communities improve schools and help all students attain their potential. The network of 10 regional laboratories works to ensure that those involved in education improvement at local, state, and regional levels have access to the best available research and knowledge from practice. Under the guidance of boards of constituent members, laboratories work to implement comprehensive school improvement strategies through dissemination of information, training, and technical assistance. They also conduct development and applied research and cooperate with other providers of technical assistance. Each laboratory has been asked to develop one expertise as a specialty area aligned with the dominant themes of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement National Institutes. The laboratories and their specialty areas are: (1) Northeast and Islands Laboratory at Brown University (Rhode Island), language and cultural diversity; (2) Mid-Atlantic Laboratory for Student Success (Pennsylvania), urban education; (3) Appalachia Educational Laboratory (West Virginia), rural education; (4) Southeaster Regional Vision for Education (North Carolina), early childhood education; (5) North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (Illinois), educational technology; (6) Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (Texas), language and cultural diversity; (7) Mid-continent Regional Educational Laboratory (Colorado), curriculum, learning, and instruction; (8) WestED (California), assessment and accountability; (9) Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (Oregon), school change processes; and (10) Pacific Region Educational Laboratory (Hawaii), language and cultural diversity. (SLD)

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The Regional Educational Laboratories

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT

The Regional Educational Laboratories

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Office of Educational Research and Improvement

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Richard W. Riley
Secretary

Office of Educational Research and Improvement
Sharon P. Robinson
Assistant Secretary

Office of Reform Assistance and Dissemination
Ronald W. Cartwright
Acting Director

September 1996

What Is the Regional Educational Laboratory Program?

The Regional Educational Laboratory Program (the "Lab Program") is the U.S. Department of Education's largest research and development investment designed to help educators, policymakers, and communities improve schools and help all students attain their full potential. Administered by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), the network of 10 Regional Labs works to ensure that those involved in educational improvement at the local, state, and regional levels have access to the best available research and knowledge from practice.

How Do Labs Serve Their Regions?

Each Regional Lab is guided by a governing board that represents the constituents in its region—including teachers, researchers, and high-level policymakers. Under the guidance of their boards, Laboratories:

- work with states and localities to implement comprehensive school improvement strategies by providing information, training, and technical assistance, and developing or implementing research-based programs;
- conduct development and applied research resulting in well-tested models for implementing systemic reform and for expanding exemplary isolated reform efforts on a broader scale;
- promote widespread access to information regarding research and best practice;
- create communities of learners to engage collaboratively with the Laboratory in development and dissemination;
- cooperate with other ED-funded technical assistance providers to create a nationwide education information and assistance system that can support educators' and policymakers' efforts to improve education; and
- forge strong links to the research community to promote the creation of new knowledge to improve education.

Laboratories are expected to pay particular attention to rural areas and to districts and schools that serve high concentrations of economically disadvantaged students.

How Do Labs Serve the Nation?

The Regional Labs also work as a network, using their knowledge, experience, and expertise to develop and deliver products and services benefiting educators nationally. During the past five years, the Regional Laboratory Network has:

- brought together curriculum framework developers in math and science from 22 states to design ways to help those in other states with similar responsibilities;
- promoted the case method as a tool to help teachers improve their skills by teaching teachers how to prepare case studies, trained teachers in the use of the case method for pre-service and in-service instruction, and disseminated casebooks to thousands of educators nationwide;
- validated Laboratory-developed products and processes that have helped schools and enabled other Laboratories to provide technical assistance to spread these practices nationwide; and
- helped to identify or develop resources on critical issues facing urban education and made those resources available on the Internet to teachers.

What Do the Labs Do?

During the current contract period the Laboratories are working with hundreds of schools and school districts, as well as states, research institutions, and community-based organizations, to explore effective ways to implement educational reforms. Two priorities will guide all Laboratory program work:

- helping educators and administrators to "put the pieces of educational improvement together" systemically to achieve educational excellence and equity for all students; and
- helping educators and administrators to expand systemic reform to benefit schools, and the educational programs within them, in all communities.

Each Laboratory has also been asked to develop one expertise as a *specialty area*. This will enable Laboratories to provide leadership and act as an expert resource both within their respective regions and to the Laboratory network. In addition, the specialty areas are aligned with dominant themes of the OERI National Institutes and the national Research Centers they support to encourage strong links between the creation and use of knowledge.

Thirty years after their creation, the Regional Labs continue to be vital partners with state and local educators, researchers, and policymakers in using research to tackle the difficult issues in education reform. The cumulative work of the Labs during this time has resulted in many well-tested programs and approaches that can make a measurable difference in improving education.

LAB

Northeast and Islands Laboratory at Brown University (LAB)

Address: 222 Richmond Street, Suite 300
Providence, RI 02903-4226
Phone: (401) 274-9548
(800) 521-9550
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E-mail: LAB@brown.edu
Internet: http://www.lab.brown.edu

Director: Dr. Phil Zarlengo, Interim

OERI Contact: Lynn Spencer (202) 219-2179; lynn_spencer@ed.gov

States Served: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

Specialty Area: Language and Cultural Diversity

LSS

The Mid-Atlantic Laboratory for Student Success

Mid-Atlantic Laboratory for Student Success (LSS)

Address: Temple University/Center for Research in Human Development and Education
933 Ritter Annex, 13th St. and Cecil B. Moore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Phone: (215) 204-3000
(800) 892-5550
Fax: (215) 204-5130
E-mail: lss@vm.temple.edu
Internet: http://www.temple.edu/departments/lss

Director: Dr. Margaret C. Wang

OERI Contact: Gregory Dennis (202) 219-1919; gdennis@inet.ed.gov

States Served: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC

Specialty Area: Urban Education

Appalachia Educational Laboratory (AEL)

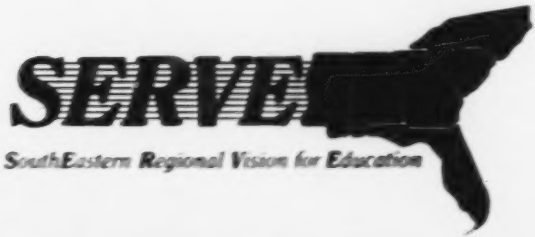
Address: Post Office Box 1348
Charleston, WV 25325-1348
Phone: (304) 347-0400
(800) 624-9120
Fax: (304) 347-0487
E-mail: aelinfo@ael.org
Internet: http://www.ael.org

Director: Dr. Terry L. Eidell

OERI Contact: Luna Levinson (202) 219-2138; luna_levinson@ed.gov

States Served: Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia

Specialty Area: Rural Education



Southeastern Regional Vision for Education (SERVE)

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Greensboro, NC 27435
Phone: (910) 334-3211
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Internet: http://www.serve.org

Director: Dr. Roy H. Forbes

OERI Contact: Deborah Williams (202) 219-2204;
deborah_williams@ed.gov

States Served: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina

Specialty Area: Early Childhood Education

North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL)

Address: 1900 Spring Road, Suite 300
Oak Brook, IL 60521-1480
Phone: (630) 571-4700
(800) 356-2735
Fax: (630) 571-4716
E-mail: info@ncrel.org
Internet: http://www.ncrel.org

Director: Dr. Jeri Nowakowski

OERI Contact: Mary Campbell (202) 219-2130;
mary_campbell@ed.gov

States Served: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

Specialty Area: Educational Technology

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL)

Address: 211 East Seventh Street
Austin, TX 78701-3281
Phone: (512) 476-6861
(800) 476-6861
Fax: (512) 476-2286
E-mail: jpollard@sedl.org
Internet: http://www.sedl.org

Director: Dr. Preston Kronkosky

OERI Contact: Gil Garcia (202) 219-2144; gil_garcia@ed.gov

States Served: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

Specialty Area: Language and Cultural Diversity

Mid-continent Regional Educational Laboratory (McREL)

Address:	2550 South Parker Road, Suite 500 Aurora, CO 80014-1678 **Phone:** (303) 337-0990 **Fax:** (303) 337-3005 **E-mail:** (info@mcrel.org **Internet:** http://www.mcrel.org
Director:	Dr. J. Timothy Waters
OERI Contact:	Annora Bryant (202) 219-2087; annora_bryant@ed.gov
States Served:	Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming
Specialty Area:	Curriculum, Learning, and Instruction

WestEd

Address:	730 Harrison Street San Francisco, CA 94107 **Phone:** (415) 565-3000 **Fax:** (415) 565-3012 **E-mail:** tross@wested.org **Internet:** http://www.wested.org
Director:	Dr. Dean H. Nafziger
OERI Contact:	Sharon Horn (202) 219-2203; sharon_horn@ed.gov
States Served:	Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah
Specialty Area:	Assessment and Accountability

Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL)

Address: 101 SW Main Street, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 275-9500
(800) 547-6339
Fax: (503) 275-9489
E-mail: info@nwrel.org
Internet: http://www.nwrel.org

Director: Dr. Ethel Simon-McWilliams

OERI Contact: Carol Mitchell (202) 219-2128; carol_j_mitchell@ed.gov

States Served: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington

Specialty Area: School Change Processes

Pacific Region Educational Laboratory (PREL)

Address: 828 Fort Street Mall, Suite 500
Honolulu, HI 96813-4321
Phone: (808) 533-6000
Fax: (808) 533-7599
E-mail: askprel@prel.hawaii.edu
Internet: http://www.prel-oahu-1.prel.hawaii.ed

Director: Dr. John Kofel

OERI Contact: Joe Wilkes (202) 219-2186; joe_wilkes@ed.gov

States Served: American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawaii, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau

Specialty Area: Language and Cultural Diversity

For more information about the Regional Educational Laboratory Program please contact either:

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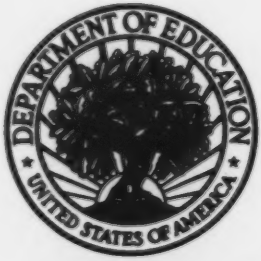

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